

STRATEGIC AND EQUITABLE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FOR RIPARIAN PROJECTS IN THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA



UNIVERSITY
of VIRGINIA

INSTITUTE *for*
ENGAGEMENT & NEGOTIATION

Shaping Our World Together

ABOUT IEN

- **Nationally recognized leader in fostering collaborative change**
- **40 years of public service**
- **Lead University partner for the Natural Resources Leadership Institute now in its 22nd year**
- **• IEN's mission – *“Catalyze and facilitate the shared creation of equitable solutions for organizations, communities, and leaders through research, collaboration, and training”***

Our Staff Dedicated to this Project

Tanya Denckla Cobb: IEN Director with 24 years of experience at IEN; active in climate resilience issues and equitable collaboration work; mediator

Mike Foreman: Special Projects Manager with over 40 years of experience, natural resources and riparian background; mediator

Kelly Altizer: IEN Associate, 10 years experience; natural resources policy background

Chamie Valentine: UVA Visiting Scholar, Attorney, and mediator

We bring decades of deep experience and service to the Commonwealth and to this project!

ABOUT IEN

We follow the 7 Core Values of the International Assn. for Public Participation (IAP2):

- ▷ Recognizes **that those affected have the right to be involved in the decision-making process**
- ▷ Includes promise that **contributions will influence the decision**
- ▷ Promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the **needs and interests of all** participants, including decision makers
- ▷ **Seeks out and facilitates involvement** of those potentially affected
- ▷ Seeks input from participants in **designing** how they participate
- ▷ Provides participants with quality **information they need to participate** in a meaningful way
- ▷ Communicates **how input affected (or did not affect) the decision.**

ABOUT IEN

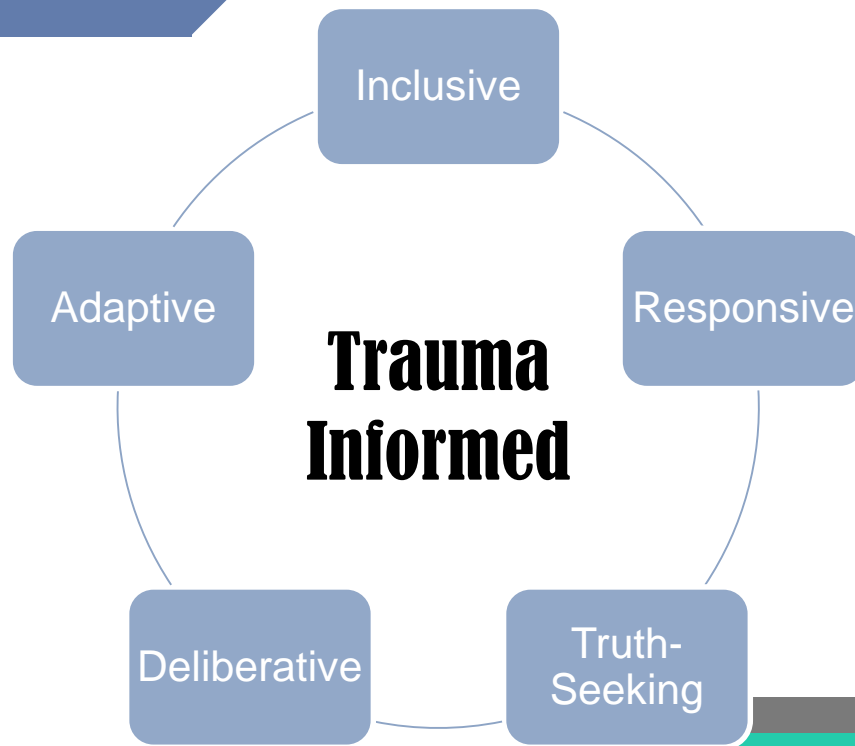
We developed “Equitable Collaboration” framework to guide our work & center equity in community engagement

- ▷ Six key elements
- ▷ Presented at Governor’s Summit on Equitable Collaboration in February Of 2021
- ▷ Broad support for framework



6 Key Elements

- **Trauma-Informed** – Recognizes past traumas; prepares and supports people through a process, to prevent and minimize renewed trauma
- **Inclusive** – Reaches all segments of a community, acknowledges racial, ethnic, gender, class and other dynamics as integral for meaningful participation
- **Responsive** - Acknowledges community questions, needs, concerns and ideas in a meaningful way
- **Truth-Seeking** – Invites honest, more complete histories, especially when such histories are painful to hear and understand
- **Deliberative** – Fosters brave spaces where participants honestly and openly confront past and present, for learning, growing, and shared civic thinking
- **Adaptive** – Using appropriate process to achieve local goals and adapt to changing circumstances.

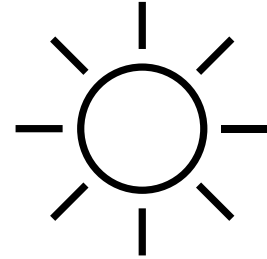




Why equitable collaboration?



- Ordinary public processes can often **add** harm
- Authentic engagement require **equitable** processes
- Equitable **processes** lead to equitable **outcomes**



Institutions and communities will produce more authentic, equitable and legitimate outcomes if they adopt principles of “equitable collaboration” to guide their decision-making processes.

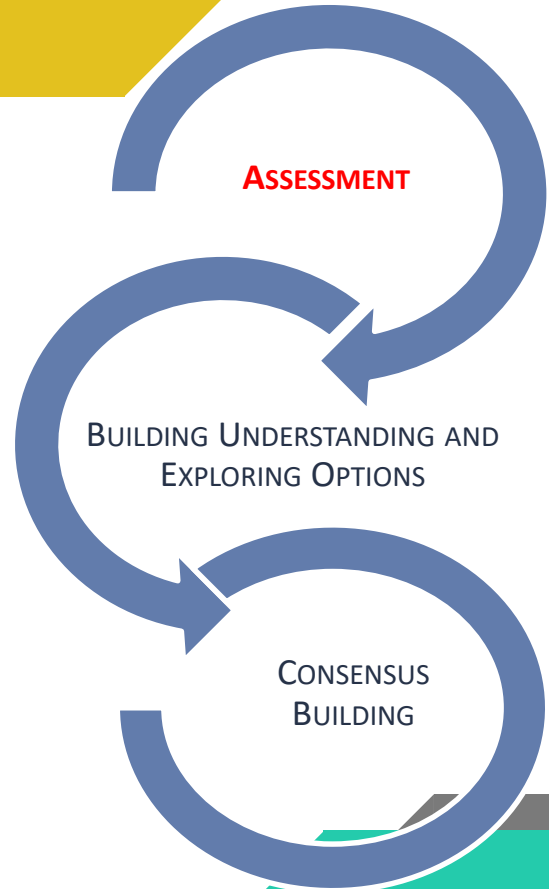
Our Suggested Approach

Why Bring IEN into these Riparian Projects?

- **Past community engagement strategies were not successful**
- **Need to find a way to protect the streams and city's physical infrastructure in these streams and find a way to protect the City's streams from further erosion and degradation**
- **Identifying paths forward that are supported by the community is important for the City**
- **These projects could yield credits for the Chesapeake Bay work by the City**
- **Our suggested approach presented here is inclusive, impartial, and striving for consensus-based solutions**

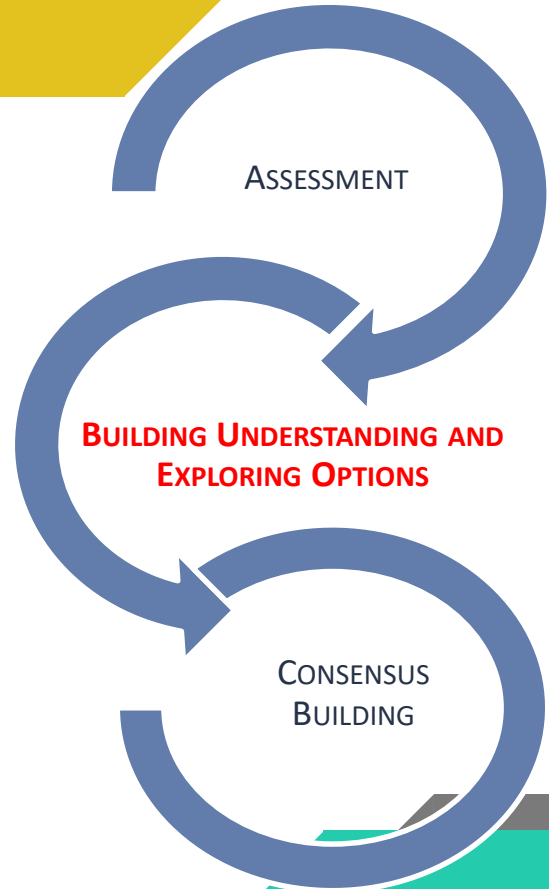
PROPOSE THREE PHASES OF WORK

- **PHASE 1: ASSESSMENT**
 - **FORMATION OF PROJECT STEERING TEAM**
 - **COMMUNITY INTERVIEWS**
 - **IENT INTERNAL CONSULT WITH STANDING SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS (SMEs)**



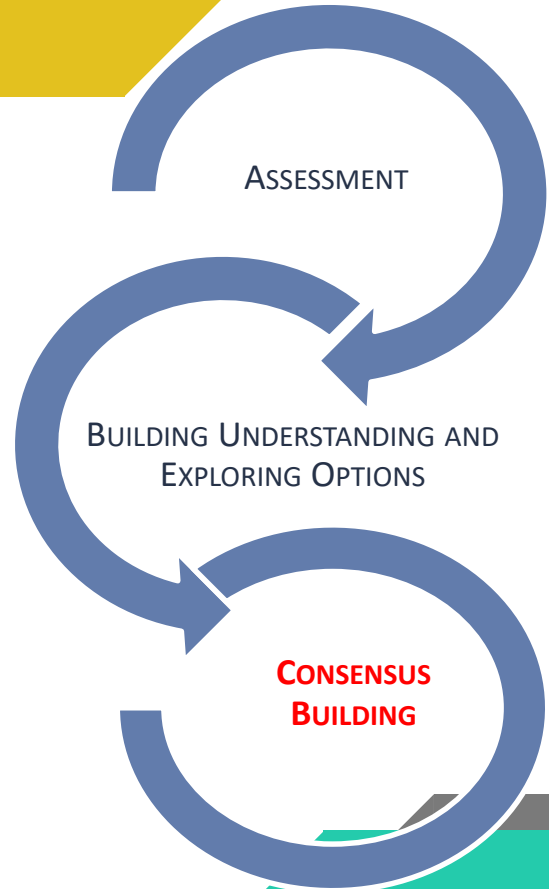
PROPOSE THREE PHASES OF WORK

- **PHASE 2: BUILDING UNDERSTANDING & EXPLORING OPTIONS**
 - **3 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOPS**
 - **INCLUSIVE, RESPONSIVE, ADAPTIVE, DELIBERATIVE**
 - **EXPANDING, EVALUATING, AND SELECTING OPTIONS**



PROPOSE THREE PHASES OF WORK

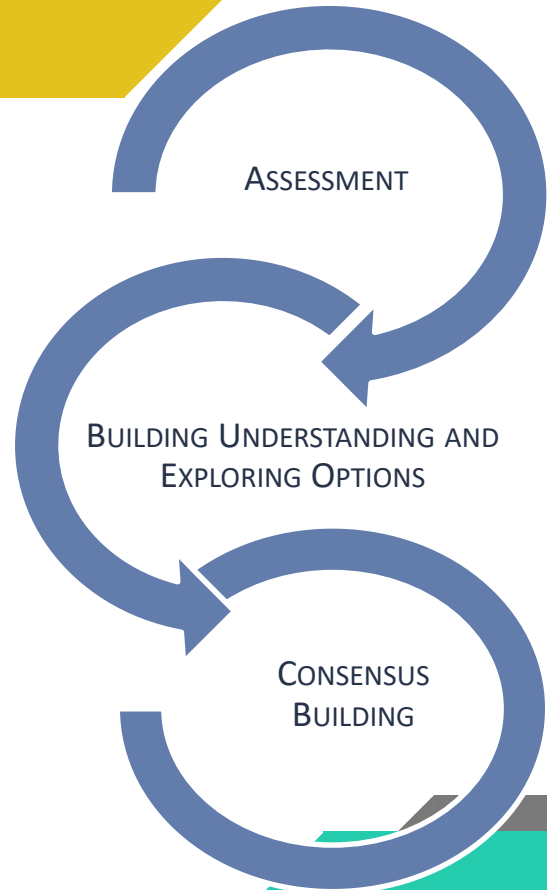
- **PHASE 3: CONSENSUS BUILDING**
 - **FINAL STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP**
 - **REVIEW OF FINAL SET OF OPTIONS**
 - **CONSENSUS BUILDING TO SHAPE STRONGEST POSSIBLE COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED BLUEPRINT**



Written Deliverables

For Each Phase

- **PHASE 1: SYNTHESIS OF INTERVIEWS**
- **PHASE 2: WORKSHOP MEETING SUMMARIES**
- **PHASE 3: BLUEPRINT PLAN FOR RESTORING STREAM HEALTH**



REQUESTS

To Get Us Started

- **Our request to the EPC:** Recommendations for a minimum of 2-3 Steering Team members by the end of October. Looking to get 7-10 members representing the 3 project areas
- **Our goal:** To work with City staff to begin November with:
 - Meeting of stakeholder Steering Team to review and finalize interview selections and questions
 - Begin key stakeholder interview process